

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows wherein deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and inserted matter is shown by underlining:

Page 1, lines 7-13:

It is common in packaging technology to provide dimensionally stable packs, consisting in particular of cardboard, with an outer wrapper made of thin, transparent film. Such an outer wrapper is common, ~~in particular,~~ in cigarette packs of the hinge-lid type. Before the pack is opened for the first time, the outer wrapper, which is usually provided with a tear-open strip, is removed.

Page 2, lines 1-3:

The object of the invention is to ensure an improved, ~~in~~ particularly fold-free, appearance of the outer wrapper, ~~to be precise~~ by virtue of the film being shrunk.

Page 2, lines 19-40:

The invention is based on the finding that, upon initiation of the shrink-wrapping and/or heat treatment, the outer wrapper has to be completely finished; ~~that is to say~~ in other words all the folding tabs have to be folded into the correct position and fixed in said position. In order to connect the folding tabs to one another, ~~in~~ particularly in the region of the end wall, base wall and side wall, use is made of large-surface-area sealing elements which subject the folding tabs to the action of heat, usually over a large surface area and/or over the entire surface area of the pack, in order to bring about heat sealing of the folding tabs. The shrink-wrapping process of the outer wrapper is initiated in this case. This results, in particular, with sealing steps which follow one after the other in time of space, in undesired, permanent deformations of the outer wrapper. In the invention, as a result of the preliminary sealing and/or preliminary tacking, fixing of the outer wrapper in the correct folding position is completed without a shrink-wrapping treatment being initiated by said tacking and/or preliminary sealing. It is then possible for the pack to be

subjected directly to a shrink-wrapping treatment or to be sealed over a large surface area in the region of the folding tabs in the conventional manner.

Page 3, lines 1-6:

The apparatus according to the invention, as part of a packing machine, is designed such that tacking elements are arranged upstream of a sealing station and/or sealing subassemblies, for the folding tabs, ~~are tacking elements~~ which tacking elements bring about tacking and/or preliminary sealing of the folded outer wrapper in the region of the folding tabs.

Page 5, lines 1-11:

First of all, on account of the sequence of folding steps, tacking is provided in the region of the overlap 22 of the side tabs 20, 21. In the exemplary embodiment of Figure 3, said tacking comprises small-surface-area spot seals 27. A plurality of circular or oval spot seals 27 are provided along the (non-folded) overlap 22, ~~to be precise~~ in a spaced apart manner. At least in each case one spot seal 27 is located in the region of those regions of the outer wrapper which project beyond the pack 10 and are intended for forming the transverse tabs 23.

Page 5, lines 13-20:

An alternative is shown in Figure 4, ~~to be precise~~, by a sealing strip 28 which extends over the entire length of the blank and/or of the (non-folded) overlap 22. Said sealing strip is of comparatively narrow width, for example approximately 2 mm. This gives a connection between the side tabs 20, 21 which is sufficient for the rest of the folding process, without the shrink-wrapping process for the outer wrapper 13 being initiated as a result of the supply of heat.

Page 8, lines 6-12:

Thereafter, the packs 10 are pushed off transversely into the sealing path 50. Within the latter, the packs 10 are positioned in two rows arranged one above the other. Sealing of the sideways directed end walls 18 and base walls 19 is completed here by sealing jaws 55, ~~to be precise~~ likewise during the respective standstill phases of the packs 10 in a number of sealing cycles.